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ACT OF INCORPORATION

AND

BY-LAWS

OF THE

ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES

OF

PHILADELPHIA.

Philadelphia

1835.

AN ACT
TO INCORPORATE THE
ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES
OF PHILADELPHIA.

WHEREAS it is represented to the legislature that a number of persons have formed a society in Philadelphia for the encouragement and cultivation of the sciences, by the name of "The Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia," as a society devoted entirely to the advancement of useful learning, and in order that the purposes thereof may be carried into better effect,

Therefore,

SECTION 1. *BE it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same,* That all such persons as now are members of said society, according to its rules heretofore adopted, or that hereafter may become members of the same, agreeably to its rules and regulations, be, and they are hereby incorporated into a society by the name of "The Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia," and by that name shall have perpetual succession, with power to have a common seal, and change the same at pleasure, to make contracts relative to the said institution, to sue and be sued, and by that name and style be capable, in law, of purchasing, taking, holding, and conveying, any estate, real or personal, for the use of said corporation: *Provided*, that the annual income of such estate shall not exceed in value eight thousand dollars, nor be applied to any other purposes than those for which this corporation is formed.

Sect. 2. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That the society may establish by-laws and orders for its government and regulation, and for the preservation and application of the funds thereof: *Provided* the same be not repugnant to the constitution and laws of the United States, or of this Commonwealth.

Sect. 3. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That the society shall consist of members and correspondents, and

candidates for admission shall be elected under such rules, and upon such terms, as the society shall establish; aliens shall enjoy the full rights of members, or correspondents in the society, but members only shall have the right of voting, of holding offices, and of transacting business, and correspondents shall have the privilege of attending the meetings, and visiting the museum.

Sect. 4. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That the officers of the society shall be a president, two vice-presidents, a corresponding secretary, a recording secretary, a treasurer, a librarian, and four curators, whose respective duties may be assigned by the by-laws of the said society, and they shall be elected at the last stated meeting of the society in December, in each year; and if any office should become vacant, it may be supplied by a special election, until the annual election then ensuing; and until the next annual election for officers in the month of December one thousand eight hundred and seventeen, the present officers are hereby vested with power to perform the duties prescribed by the existing rules of the society, unless there be intermediate vacancies, and then the officer or officers to be elected, shall have the full power of his, or their predecessors.

Sect. 5. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That if the annual election for officers shall not be held at the stated day, the said corporation shall not be thereby dissolved, but the officers shall continue in office until a new election.

REES HILL,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

ISAAC WEAVER,

Speaker of the Senate.

Approved, the twenty-fourth day of March, one thousand eight hundred and seventeen.

SIMON SNYDER.

Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth,
Harrisburg, April 25th, 1817.

I certify that the above and foregoing is a true copy of the original law remaining on file in this office. Witness my hand and seal.

JAMES TRIMBLE, [L. s.]
Deputy Secretary.

BY-LAWS

OF THE

ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES

OF

PHILADELPHIA.

CHAPTER I.

ART. I. The Society shall be called the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia.

ART. II. The Society shall consist of members and correspondents.

ART. III. The right of voting, of holding offices, and of transacting business, lies solely with the members; correspondents have the privilege of attending the meetings, and of visiting the museum.

ART. IV. The common seal of the Society shall be the title of the association, surrounding the words

Instituted 1812,
Incorporated 1817.

ART. V. The Academy shall grant to each member and correspondent a certificate of membership, as follows:

The Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia have elected _____
_____ a member of their association this _____ day of _____

Correspond. Sec.
Record. Sec.

* SEAL. *

President.
Vice Presidents.

ART. VI. The hall of the Academy shall be used for the purposes of the Society only.

ART. VII. The officers of the Academy shall be a President, two Vice Presidents, a Recording Secretary, a Corresponding Secretary, a Treasurer, a Librarian, and four Curators, who shall be elected at the last stated meeting in December.

CHAPTER II.

Election of Members and Correspondents.

ART. I. All candidates for admission into the Academy, whether as members or correspondents, must be proposed in writing by two members at a

meeting of business, and be balloted for at the meeting of business next succeeding; the affirmative votes of three-fourths of the members present shall be necessary to elect a candidate.

ART. II. No person residing in Philadelphia can be chosen a correspondent; nor shall any correspondent continue such after he shall have removed permanently to Philadelphia. In such case a re-election is not necessary, but the correspondent becomes liable for the semi-annual contributions, and is entitled to all the privileges of a member.

ART. III. No person shall be entitled to the privileges of membership until he shall have paid the fee of initiation, (except in cases of correspondents removing to the city,) and signed the following obligation:

In becoming a member of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, I promise to conform myself to its constitution, laws, and regulations, and in testimony thereof I do hereunto subscribe my name.

ART. IV. If any member elect shall not sign the above declaration and pay the fee of initiation within six months from the date of his election into the Society, the said election may be declared null and void by a majority of the members present at any meeting of business.

ART. V. If any person shall be balloted for and rejected, or his name withdrawn previous to the ballot, no note of said rejection or withdrawal shall be made on the minutes of the Academy.

ART. VI. No person thus rejected shall again be proposed before the expiration of one year; nor shall any one whose name has been withdrawn previous to the ballot, be again proposed before the expiration of six months from said withdrawal.

CHAPTER III.

Contributions and Payments.

ART. I. Every member elect shall pay to the treasurer an initiation fee of ten dollars.

ART. II. Every member shall be subject to a semi-annual contribution of five dollars, payable at the last stated meeting in June and December.

ART. III. But any member who shall pay into the hands of the treasurer the sum of eighty dollars, shall be exempt from all future semi-annual contributions.

ART. IV. The Academy may, as a mark of distinction, exempt any member from his contributions, provided it be proposed at one meeting of business, lie on the table for one month, and all the members present at the subsequent meeting of business agree thereto.

ART. V. Every member who shall be absent from the city during the space of six or more months, may be exonerated from the payment of his dues accruing during his absence.

ART. VI. No member shall be entitled to vote at the annual election for officers, unless he can exhibit to the tellers a receipt in full for all his arrearages due to the Academy.

ART. VII. No pecuniary contributions shall be required from correspondents.

CHAPTER IV.

Resignation and expulsion of Members.

ART. I. Any member shall have leave to resign upon application made therefor, in writing, provided he can produce a certificate from the Treasurer that all arrears due from him to the Society have been discharged.

ART. II. Members may be expelled from the Academy for any flagrant act of disrespect to the officers or members of the Academy, or wilful disregard of the constitution and by-laws.

ART. III. No member shall be expelled from the Academy unless three-fourths of the members present agree thereto, at least twelve members being present, and then not without having an opportunity of being heard in his own defence.

ART. IV. No person thus expelled, shall, under any circumstances, be received as a candidate for re-election.

CHAPTER V.

Of Officers and their Duties.

ART. I. The duties of the president, are to occupy the chair at the meetings of the Academy, to preserve good order and decorum, to regulate the debates; to nominate the chairman of all committees, other than those specially excepted; and to call special meetings of the Society at such times as he shall deem necessary, or at the request of five members.

ART. II. The duties of the vice-presidents shall be the same as those of the president, during his absence.

ART. III. The recording secretary is to take and preserve correct minutes of the proceedings of the Society, to notify all members of their election, and all committees of their appointment, to keep a correct list of the members of the Society, with the date of their election, resignation, or death, to have charge of the common seal of the Academy, and to lay before the Society, at the last stated meeting in December, a written report of its transactions during the preceding year.

ART. IV. The corresponding secretary is to maintain and conduct the correspondence of the Academy; and to acknowledge all donations, made by those who are not members of the Society. He is to notify all correspondents of their election, and to keep a correct list of all such elections, as well as of any deaths, resignations, &c., that may occur, noting the time; he is also to keep correct copies of all letters written on the business of the Academy, to have the care of the certificates of membership, and to have them filled up, signed, sealed, and forwarded to correspondents, or delivered to members, provided they exhibit to him a receipt from the treasurer, that they are not in arrears to the Society, and shall read a minute of his transactions at each meeting for business.

ART. V. The duty of the treasurer is to take charge of the funds of the Society, and to attend to the collection and payment of moneys, but no moneys are to be paid by him except on an order from the auditors; he is to keep a clear and detailed statement of all receipts and expenditures, which is to be laid before the Academy at the last stated meeting in December.

ART. VI. The duty of the librarian is to take charge of all books belonging to the Academy, under the rules prescribed in Chapter VII, to keep a correct list of all donations or deposits of books, of those missing or lent, and to report on the state of the library at the last stated meeting in December.

ART. VII. The curators shall have charge of the Hall of the Academy, purchase all articles wanted, hire janitors, report on what repairs are necessary, and see that they are properly executed; they shall keep the keys of all cases in the museum, and have charge of it under the rules prescribed in Chapter VIII; they shall report all additions made to the different departments under their charge, at the last stated meeting in December.

CHAPTER VI.

Committees and their duties.

ART. I. There shall be seven standing committees, viz:—The Auditors, to consist of three members. The Mineralogical and Geological committee, and the Zoological committee to consist of seven members each, the Publication, Library, and Botanical committees, and the committee on Physics, to consist every one of five members, whose term of service shall be one year. And all these, except the auditors and publication committee, shall be elected at the last meeting in January of each year.

ART. II. The committees of auditors and of publication shall be elected in the same manner, and at the same time, as the officers of the Academy.

ART. III. In appointing all other committees, the president is to nominate the first member of it, who is to nominate a second, the second a third, and in like manner successively, until the number agreed on be completed.

ART. IV. All committees must report in writing; and every report must be signed by a majority of the committee offering it.

ART. V. All special committees must report at the meeting of business next succeeding their appointment.

ART. VI. The committee of auditors, shall, in conjunction with the treasurer, have the superintendence of the moneyed concerns of the Academy; they shall examine all bills, and, if correct, give an order on the treasurer for the amount; examine the treasurer's books and accounts; keep correct minutes of their proceedings, and report at the last stated meeting in December.

ART. VII. The committee of publication shall conduct the publication of the Journal, under the rules prescribed in Chapter IX, and shall report to the Academy, at the last stated meeting in December.

ART. VIII. The library committee shall, in conjunction with the librarian, have the superintendence of the books belonging to the Society, negotiate all exchanges of duplicates, and keep a correct list of all additions to the library, and report at the last stated meeting in January.

ART. IX. The standing committees, shall have charge, in conjunction with the curators, of their respective departments, make exchanges of duplicates, arrange and keep in order all donations and deposits, carefully labeling each article, and keep a correct catalogue of all additions to their respective departments, and report at the last stated meeting in January.

CHAPTER VII.

Library.

ART. I. All works in the library must be classed according to their subjects.

ART. II. The librarian shall keep a correct catalogue of all books belonging to the Society, which shall always be open to the inspection of members.

ART. III. There shall be two sets of keys to the cases containing the books, one of which shall be kept by the librarian, and the other by the chairman of the library committee.

ART. IV. Members may borrow books, from the librarian, on signing a promissory note for fifty dollars, which shall become void on the book being returned.

ART. V. But no works shall be loaned from the hall, on any account whatever, except those marked with an asterisk (thus *) in the catalogue.

ART. VI. And whenever the librarian may deem it necessary to withhold the loan of books, permission must be obtained from the Society, two-thirds of the members present agreeing thereto.

ART. VII. Every book must be returned on the evening of business next succeeding the time at which it was borrowed, under a penalty of twenty-five cents, for each week it shall be detained beyond such time.

ART. VIII. No member shall be allowed to renew the loan of a book if any other member shall be desirous of obtaining it.

ART. IX. The librarian and library committee shall be responsible for all works committed to their charge.

CHAPTER VIII.

Museum.

ART. I. No specimen of natural history contained in the collections of the Academy shall be lent from the Hall, under any pretence whatsoever.

ART. II. The keys of the cases containing the collections shall be kept by the curators and members of the committees, attached to the different departments, who alone shall have liberty to open the cases, and shall be responsible for all articles committed to their charge.

ART. III. If any member is desirous to inspect more closely the specimens in the collections, for purposes of study or description, he must apply to the curators or the members of the committee on that department.

ART. IV. All articles in the museum must be properly labelled as far as practicable, and a catalogue of the articles in each department kept by the committee attached to said department.

ART. V. Articles presented to the Academy for the museum, must if possible be arranged therein before the stated meeting next succeeding their presentation.

ART. VI. When a member of the Academy deposits in the museum a sufficient number of articles to fill an entire case, the key of said case shall be at all times at his command.

ART. VII. Books or objects of natural history deposited with the Academy,

shall be returned only on a request of the owners or their representatives, and in all cases a receipt shall be given to the curators on the articles being returned.

ART. VIII. No specimen which is not capable of being arranged in the cabinet shall be received on deposit, unless the sanction of the committee on the department in which the specimen may be classed, and that of the curators, be first reported in writing.

CHAPTER IX.

Journal.

ART. I. The committee of publication shall immediately after their election, appoint a secretary and treasurer, who shall keep correct minutes of the financial, and other concerns, of the Journal.

ART. II. If any member absent himself from the meetings of the committee for three months, his place may be considered as vacant, and may be supplied by the Academy.

ART. III. It shall be the duty of the committee to receive all such papers as have been pronounced worthy of publication by the Academy, to have them published as early as possible, and to follow in the publication, as far as practicable, the order in which they have been reported on.

ART. IV. No author shall be permitted to make any other than verbal alterations in a paper while in the hands of the publication committee, without the consent of the Academy, and the committee are not authorised to make any alteration in a paper committed to them, without the consent of the author. All alterations proposed, (other than verbal,) must be read to the Academy.

ART. V. Drawings shall be considered the property of the individual who furnishes them, and shall be returned when called for.

ART. VI. It shall be the duty of the publication committee to read the proof-sheets of all papers, and when practicable they shall also be submitted to the author for correction.

ART. VII. Where doubts arise as to the expediency of furnishing plates to an essay, the committee shall as soon as possible report the case to the Academy.

ART. VIII. Every author shall be entitled to an extra copy of the number or numbers in which his paper appears, and on timely application to the committee he shall be entitled to twenty extra copies of his paper at the Society's expense.

ART. IX. The committee shall be responsible for the cost of publication, and if the expenses exceed the receipts, they shall themselves make up the deficiency, unless in any special case, the Academy, at a meeting of business, and by a vote of three-fourths of the members present, make an appropriation to protect the committee from loss.

ART. X. It shall be the duty of the secretary and treasurer of the publication committee, to take charge of all papers reported for publication, to keep an account of the number of the Journal printed, of the number presented, and to whom presented, and of those sold, and on hand; they shall also keep a correct account of the money transactions of the committee, receiving all moneys arising from the sale of the Journal, and paying all bills for publishing the same, these having been first approved by the committee.

ART. XI. The publication committee shall be authorized to exchange the Journal for any work, which they may deem of sufficient value.

ART. XII. No copy of the Journal shall be presented to any individual or Society, except by special resolution of the Academy.

CHAPTER X.

Communications, &c.

ART. I. All written communications intended for publication, read before the Academy, shall be referred to special committees, who are to report thereon at the meeting of business next succeeding their appointment.

ART. II. All such communications become the property of the Academy, and shall be deposited in the archives after publication: a copy, however, of any paper read before the Academy, may be taken by the author.

ART. III. But all written communications, which shall not be deemed fit for publication, may be returned to their authors, if duly requested.

CHAPTER XI.

Meetings.

ART. I. The stated meetings of the Academy shall be held on Tuesday evening of each week, at hours fixed from time to time by the Academy. No change however can be made but after one month's notice, given at a meeting for business.

ART. II. The last stated meeting in each month shall be called a Meeting for Business, and shall be appropriated to elections of members and correspondents, the enacting and altering of laws, the financial concerns of the Society, receiving reports of committees, and in general to all such business as does not appertain to the scientific transactions of the Academy.

ART. III. All other stated meetings shall be called Ordinary Meetings, and shall be devoted to scientific pursuits. No other business shall be brought forward, except in cases of urgency, and on a vote of two-thirds of the members present.

ART. IV. Special meetings may be convened by resolution of the Society, or by public notice from the president, or at the request of five members.

ART. V. Six members shall constitute a quorum.

ART. VI. Strangers may be introduced at ordinary meetings of the Society.

ART. VII. The order of business, at ordinary meetings, shall be—

1. Minutes of the last ordinary meeting shall be read.
2. Donations to the museum
3. Donations to the library
4. Written communications to be made.
5. Verbal communications.
6. Business called up by special resolution.
7. Rough minutes read.
8. Adjournment.

ART. VIII. The order of business, at meetings for business, shall be—

1. Minutes of the last meeting for business shall be read.

2. Reports of committees.
3. Corresponding secretary's reports.
4. Deferred business.
5. New business.
6. Auditors' report of bills examined.
7. Elections.
8. Rough minutes read.
9. Adjournment.

CHAPTER XII.

ART. I. In all such points of order as are not noticed in these by-laws, the Academy is to be governed by the established usages of similar institutions.

ART. II. No alterations shall be made in these by-laws, unless they be proposed in writing at a meeting for business, lie on the table for one month, and be sanctioned by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the subsequent meeting for business, at least twelve members being present.

